

News Release

Susanville Interagency Fire Center

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Lassen National Forest
Bureau of Land Management Lassen Volcanic National Park

For Release: **Wednesday, July 28, 2004**
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CREWS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS ON STRAYLOR FIRE CONTAINMENT

Fire crews in northwest Lassen County are making good progress toward containing the Straylor Fire, which has burned 3,420 acres of timber and rangeland since breaking out Thursday afternoon about 20 miles southeast of Fall River Mills.

The fire is 85 percent contained, with full containment estimated for Thursday, July 29, at 6 p.m. It is burning on the Lassen National Forest, private land and public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

More than 1,960 firefighters and support personnel are working on the fire with the assistance of 112 fire engines, 11 helicopters 17 bulldozers and 27 water tenders. There are 63 hand crews assigned. Crews will continue improving fire lines and mopping up hot spots today.

Victims of Monday afternoon's helicopter crash are recovering from their injuries. Pilot Robert Dahlberg from Aris Helicopters, San Jose, is being treated at Mercy Medical Center in Redding for back injuries. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection employee Bill Baxter, from the CDF Mendocino Unit, remains in Mercy Medical Center with a broken leg and cracked vertebrae. Rich Sampson, from the CDF Santa Cruz Unit, was released from Mayers Memorial Hospital in Fall River Mills, where he was treated for a fractured sternum.

A CDF Serious Accident Review Team, which includes fire fighting and aviation specialists from several agencies, is working to determine what caused the Bell 206 Jet Ranger helicopter to crash during a fire mapping and reconnaissance flight.

Since the fire broke out Thursday, four additional firefighters have been treated for injuries including a broken leg, laceration, spider bite and sprained ankle.

Because of heavy fire traffic, the Lassen National Forest 22 Road remains closed to the public between Davis Creek and Russell Dairy Creek.

Officials at the Susanville Interagency Fire Center remind local residents and visitors that fire dangers are high and increasing in northeast California. They urged all back country visitors to be careful with fire.